

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04365 311035Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY DARES SALAAM
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AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4365

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: EXTENSIVE GROUND AND AIR STRIKES AGAINST ZANLA
CAMPS IN MOZAMBIQUE.

1. RAND DAILY MAIL, JULY 31, CARRIES FOLLOWING PAGE-ONE
STORY BY ANTHONY RIDER ON RHODESIAN RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE.

2. TEXT OF RIDER STORY: QUOTE:
"RHODESIAN RAIDERS HIT MOZAMBIQUE."
RHODESIA LAUNCHED A MASSIVE GROUND AND AIR STRIKE AGAINST GUERRILLA
BASES IN MOZAMBIQUE YESTERDAY. THE TARGETS WERE LARGE TRAINING
CAMPS IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE WHERE MR. ROBERT MUGABE'S ZANLA WING OF
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE THOUSANDS OF GUERRILLAS
IN READINESS FOR A MAJOR OFFENSIVE INTO RHODESIA.
COMBAT TROOPS WERE AIRLIFTED IN AT DAWN AND WERE GIVEN INTENSIVE
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04365 311035Z

AIR SUPPORT BY HELICOPTERS AND JET STRIKE AIRCRAFT THE COMBINED
OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY. NO CASUALTY FIGURES
HAVE BEEN RELEASED. IT WAS THE FOURTH MAJOR RHODESIAN STRIKE
INTO MOZAMBIQUE IN THE PAST 18 MONTHS.
THE NOVEMBER ATTACKES, IN WHICH MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN
SALISBURY CLAIMED AT LEAST 1,200 INSURGENT DEATHS, PRECEDED THE
ANNOUNCEMENT BY RHODESIA'S PRIME MINISTER THAT HE WAS EMBARKING ON

SETTLEMENT TALKS WITH THE INTERNAL BLACK LEADERS.
COMBINED OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS IN SALISBURY MADE THE POINT THAT
THE RAIDS WERE A SELF-DEFENSE MEASURE.
THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY WANTS TO PREEMPT GUERRILLA
INCURSIONS INTO RHODESIA AS WELL AS SHOW IT HAS CONSIDERABLE MUSCLE
BEHIND THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, AND IS PREPARED TO USE IT.
THE COMMUNIQUE POINTED OUT THAT MOZAMBICAN CIVILIANS AND THE
FRELIMO ARMY WERE BEING CAREFULLY AVOIDED IN THIS RENEWED CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THE ZANLA FORCES.
IT WARNED THE SIMILAR RAIDS WOULD BE LAUNCHED AGAINST THOSE REFUSING
TO JOIN CEASEFIRE EFFORTS, WHICH THE COMMUNIQUE SAID, WERE BEGINNING
TO WORK WITHIN RHODESIA.
THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THERE WERE OTHER GROUPS WHICH WERE
SHOWING EVERY INDICATION OF COOPERATION WITH THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT.
THE MILITARY COMMAND HAS USED THE RAID TO MAKE A FURTHER APPEAL
TO GUERRILLAS TO JOIN IN THE CEASEFIRE.
THE COMMUNIQUE SAID " EXTERNAL OPERATIONS ARE MOUNTED AGAINST
THE TERRORISTS WHO IGNORED THE CALL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
CEASEFIRE." END QUOTE.
EDMONDSON

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